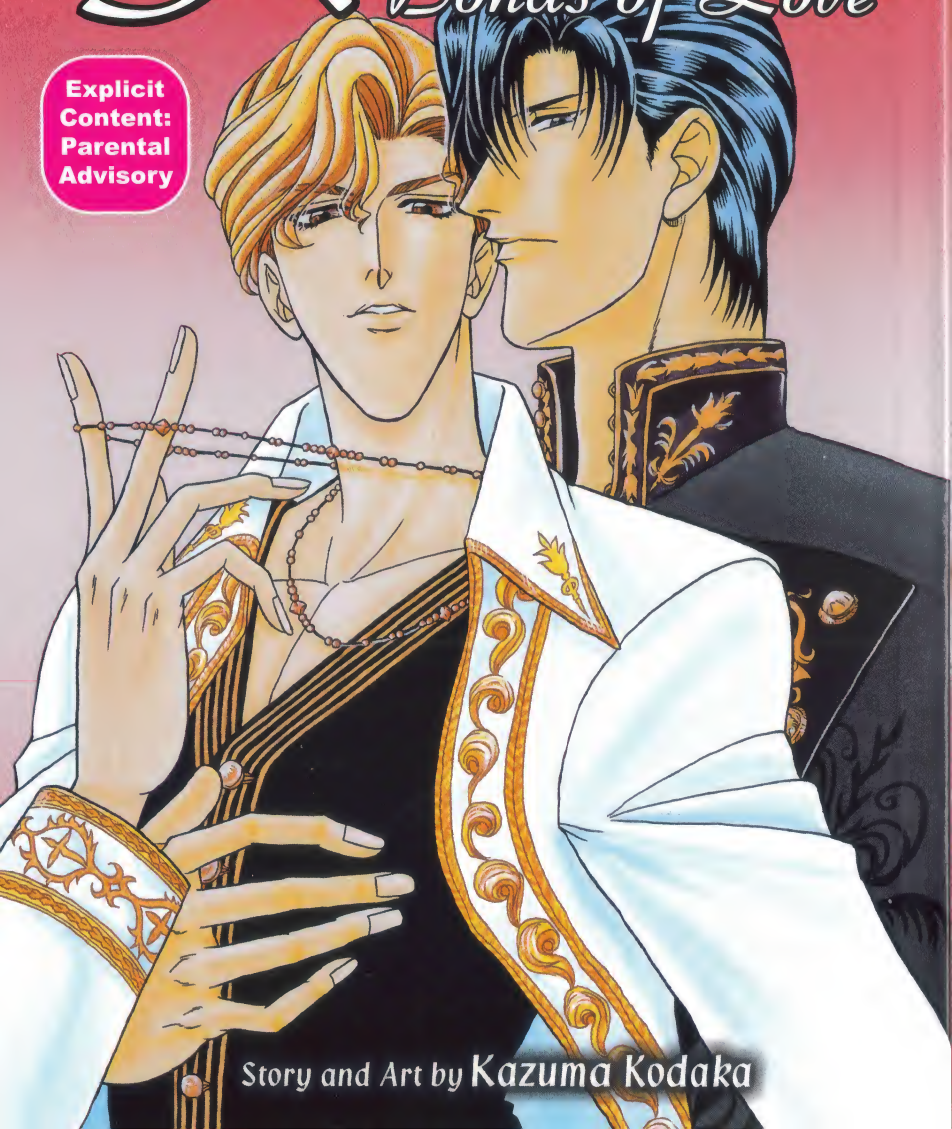


Kizuna

Bonds of Love

Explicit
Content:
Parental
Advisory



Story and Art by Kazuma Kodaka





Against all odds, Kei and Ranmaru continued their college careers, and engaged in a series of romantic misadventures.



Again, their happiness was not to last, when Kai returned, holding a grudge against Kei because he wanted Ranmaru's love for himself.



Eventually, Kai finally seduced Ranmaru for an evening to remember.



Afterwards, Ranmaru confessed his infidelity, and he and Kei shared a passionate lovemaking session.



The next morning, our three heroes forged an uneasy alliance. Kai was summoned to return home by Masanori, and our lovers were happy to have their privacy again. What will become of our heroes? Only time will tell...

Story So Far

RAINMARU SAMEJIMA and KEI ENJOJI met in college. They were inseparable, getting in trouble together and studying together, and then the inevitable happened, and the smoldering sparks between them ignited into full born flames of passion!

Ranmaru was a kendo star, while Kei was the black sheep of his family, the yakuza Sagano clan, as the illegitimate son of his father's mistress. But they overcame their differences and fell in love. However, all of that was about to change. During a clandestine check on Kei for his Sagano bosses, the hugely muscled MASANORI ARAKI brought along a guest to Ranmaru's kendo tournament... Kei's half-brother, KAI SAGANO, who was instantly enamored with the fiery kendo champion.

Upon his return to headquarters, Masanori learned of a power struggle within the underworld. The ailing head of the Sagano family wanted Masanori to take the reins of the power, but his loyalty to the Sagano bloodline wouldn't allow him to do so. Word that a Sagano heir must assume control spread throughout the underworld, which resulted in an attempt on Kei's life...an assassination attempt by Kai! The would-be killer missed Kei, but gravely injured Ranmaru.

When Kai heard of this, he tried to see Ranmaru, but Masanori wouldn't allow it and forcibly restrained him until the danger was over, which would only be when a new leader of the Sagano clan had been named.





KIZUNA







I...

Nnnn...



What are you thinking!? I'm on the phone!



Excuse me.

I understand. I'll come today!



Nnnn



Oh it's nothing, Grandpa. Really.



Nnnnnnn



Well you...you see, I've been kinda... busy.



We were going out today! You promised!

"I'll come today!?" You're going home!?



What?



I'll get it over with quickly. I'll be back tonight.

Hey.



What gives? This isn't a formal marriage interview, is it?



Ow ow ow

And whose fault is that, huh?

I couldn't refuse because you were distracting me!



Don't worry.

I can come with...



Will you be okay all by yourself?



I'll be fine.



Don't forget that I'm the Samejima Family heir.



Hey, no way!!

HMph しれ,

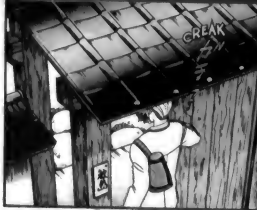
Maybe.



So I'll go today. It's just one day. That's all.

Anything that goes wrong during my absence will be my fault.

I've left the dojo in someone else's hands just to be here.



* Someone



Here I go!

But thoughts like that won't get me anywhere.



Eyaash !!

FLINCH

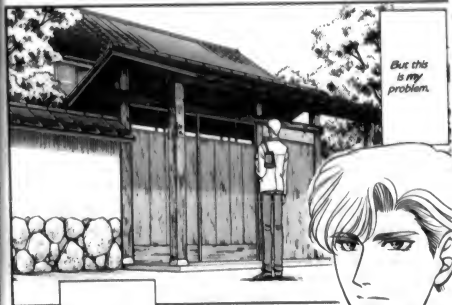
Keep going!!



If this had anything to do with him, I would've been glad to have him along.

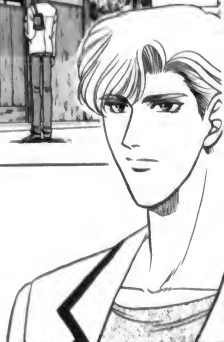


Enryoji's offer was heartfelt, but I really couldn't accept it.



But this is my problem.

It's difficult... standing before these gates... now that I've given up Kendo.





It's so nostalgic.





This is the Master's grandson!

He's here to make sure you don't slack off!!



Hey! Stop blabbering!



Begin !!

Ahh... I knew it.



Sure.

...Or something like that, huh?

Kar thegnols



WHACK

Daah!

This is where it all began. Where I began.

Being here is already making me tense.



Then you can just watch, if you'd like.



I'm... not doing Kendo anymore.



Of course.

We must keep an eye on the beginners.



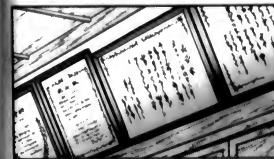
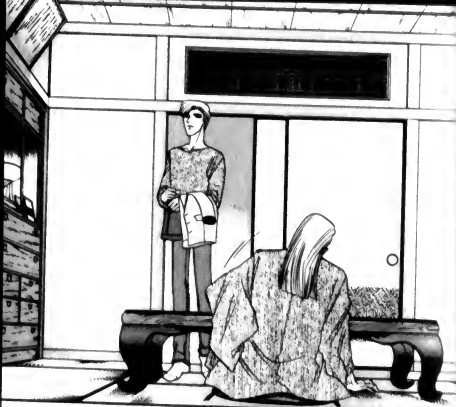
Who is it?

ほけ... STARE

That's a guy... right?

Dunno ...







Hello, Myo. How you doing?

I heard we had a guest coming, but I had no idea it was you!



Oh my! It's Master Ranmaru!



Yes, yes, it has! Now that the Miss has married off, my master's been so lonely!

Yes, well...it's been such a long time...

I've been well, but you've gotten all skinny again!



No need to trouble yourself!

If I'd known the young master was coming, I would've said something.

I'll go buy some more.



I'm so sorry, but you ate every last bit of it yesterday, Sir.

Myo.

You had that Funawa sweet potato paste, didn't you?



That picture was taken just after the tournament. You should remember.



Where?

All the way in the back.



The woman they called the White Faced Ogra.

A great fighter, who gives every-thing to Kendo.



Yes...I do remember.



Mother.



But to me, her hand was always kind and warm.





I need
a little
time...to
think
about it.



Grand
father



Ah...
I...
And to be
honest, I don't
wish to repeat
the mistakes I
made with
Shizuko.



I'm just saying
that path is still
open to you.



I
got
it.

I don't
want
to
lose
you.

I usually
wouldn't do this,
but with Rikako
away, I guess I'll
tag along.



I'm not
treating
you.

You're
paying for
yourself.

I guess
I can deal
with this
since you're
treating
me.



Enjiya!!

Huh?



Can I
really
live for
Kanda...

Choose
what you
think is
best.

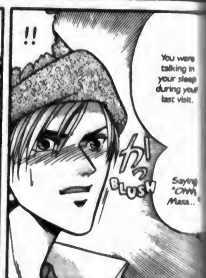


Can I
accept
those
things
along
with her
memory?



...Like my
mother,
who lost
my father's
love...and
then her
life?







I'm home.



Welcome back.



Still bratty.
And loud.



Don't you have time to call him?

There there.



GRAB

If you have time to hit me...



Let go, you moron!!

Shut up!!



Enjoy?

Yes?



Yeah, I'm just heading out.

Are you working tonight?

What about dinner?

Already ate. Sorry.



You're nothing as far as I'm concerned!

Don't act like my brother... we're hardly even related!

*It was for
Karl...because
I didn't want to
be a burden
to him. I've
worked hard
since then so
we could
always be
equals.*



*After the
accident, I was
told my right
side would never
move again. But
I didn't suffer
through my
rehabilitation for
the sake of my
Kando.*



Nothing.
I'll tell you
later.

What?



.....



*But
now...I'm
wavering.*



*It's not fair
of me to want
Karl to tell me
not to go
back to it.*



Okay.

No solitary
brooding,
okay?



All
right.

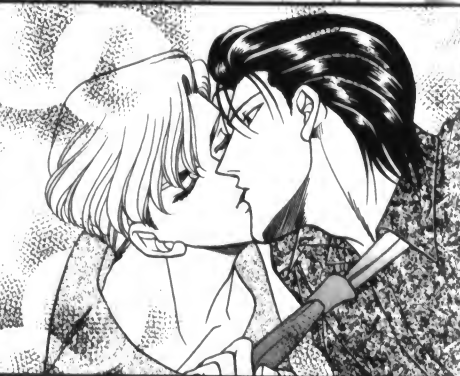
*Master
Kurebayashi
is only
looking out
for me
because of
my past
accomplish-
ments.*



I can't go
halfway.

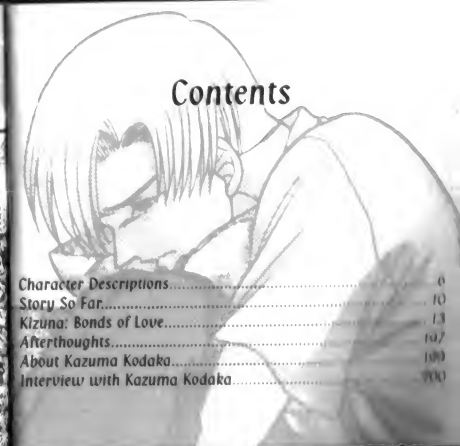


CLOCK



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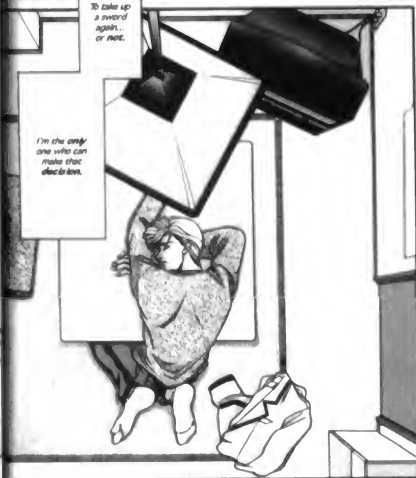


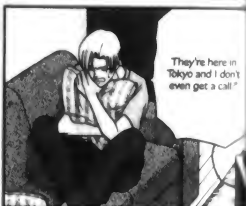


*Maybe I've
been spoiled
by relying on
him too much.*

*To take up
a sword
again...
or not.*

*I'm the only
one who can
make that
decision.*





How I long
to hear your
voice, Misa.

I haven't seen
him in three
months!



This is Kai
Sagano.



Young sir?
It's been a
while. This
is Toshi.

The boss?
Funny you
should ask.



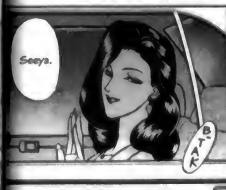
I didn't
know about
that

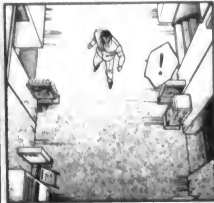
Should
I contact
them for
you?



Kyosuke's
with him!

Yes.







We can
avoid outright
fighting because
we don't have so
many hot-
heads.



The men we're
going to meet,
Sasagake,
ain't well liked
among the Ozu
directors.



Well, the
Ozu *did*
call for us,
even if it
ain't a big
deal.



They've
summoned us
tonight just to
tease us.



Well, imagine-
no, that's because
they want to see
if our new boss
has given us new
leadership.



Ha ha!
Well said.



It's
always the
juniors who
come out
shooting.



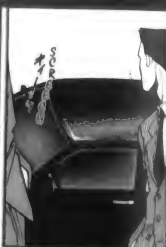
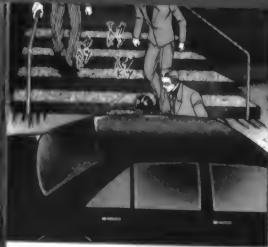
Everyone is
divided by age.
It provides some
respite from the
fools.



Hm?

Boss?

Is this
all right?



You're
Mr. Araki,
the young
boss from
Shoryukai's
Sagano
Clan?

This way,
please.



Mr.
Araki!

You finally
made it!



We came
all this way
and didn't
contact him
once.

Won't this
anger him?



You
haven't
called
him.



Sigh...
You're
right.



That cute
little mouth
of his is
gonna
pout.

For
sure.



Has it really
been three
months since
we heard his
voice?

I'll contact
him later...
when things
calm down.



Excuse us.

Yes, sir.

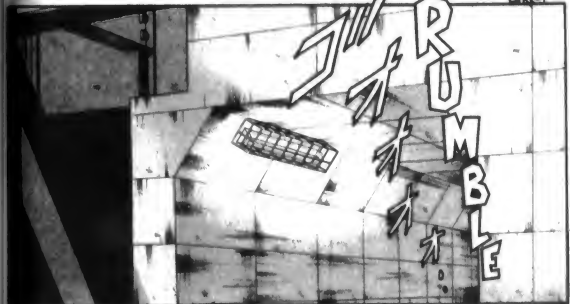
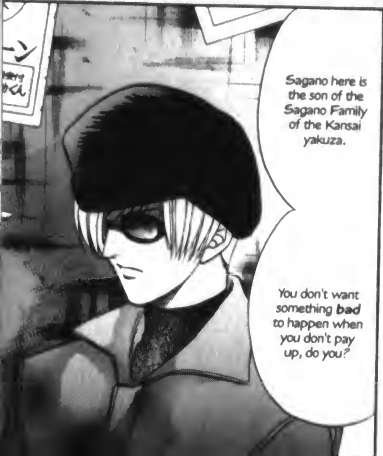
Come, sit
down! Ladies,
will you excuse
us? I'll call for
you later.



My apologies
for being late,
Mr. Sasazuka.
I am Araki, the
representative
from the Sagano
family. This is
my advisor,
Imagawa.



That isn't enough.





Not to mention the Sagano Clan and the Ozu.



What effects Shoryu will affect Shohei's hand.



Thank you.

Yes.

Japan's yakuza consists of these two prominent families.



But we never drink from each other's glass.

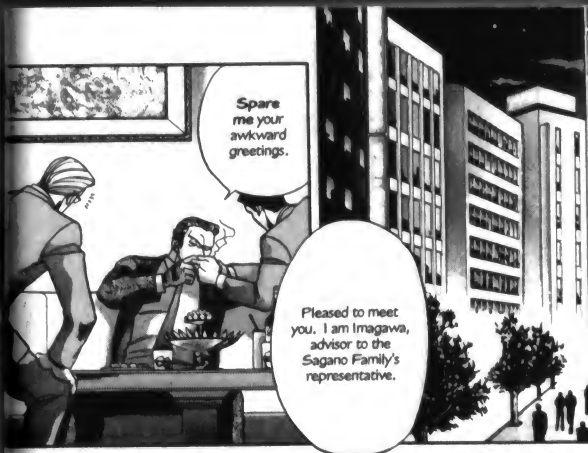
We live by imbibing the contents from our own glass.

Here we drink our sake from different glasses.



Hmph.

Thank you.



Spare me your awkward greetings.

Pleased to meet you. I am Imagawa, advisor to the Sagano Family's representative.



In that case...

Very well.

Sit down and be silent.



He's doing well, thank you.

Our group assembly is coming up.

Is he, now? That's good to hear.

Tell me... How's your boss?



Getting right to the point, I see. I like that.



...That's not something my superior would pay any mind to.

Would you please get to the point, sir?



It's up to the one who has spilled it to clean up their mess.

If a drop should spill, that constitutes a **break** in the rules.



Tell me.

Have there been drops spilling from *your* glass?



As you know, dealing in drugs is **forbidden** for us.

Although experienced men like ourselves would know better, they went through with it.

Well then, there seems to be some confusion among our junior members.

In the midst of a routine operation, they somehow obtained a large quantity of illegal drugs.



That's a pretty metaphor. But if you're trying to **apply** that to the Sagano Family...

What's he trying to say with this roundabout speech?



Ranmaru Samejima



This former kendo star must learn to cope with the nagging injuries to his right arm that have ended his athletic career. finds himself in a prolonged and passionate relationship with Kei Enjiyoji, the son of a yakuza boss. He has found a degree of peace since settling down with Kei, although his past as a kendo champion threatens to haunt him for the rest of his days.

Skill set: Kendo, well-developed sense of introspection, a good kisser

Character Profiles

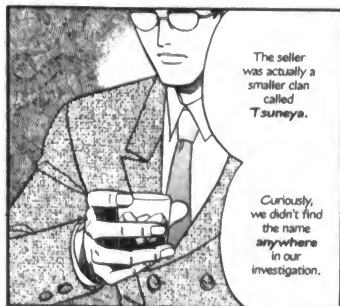


Kei Enjiyoji



Tall, dark, and handsome, and the intended target of the hit and run driver that almost killed Ranmaru. Overcome with guilt, Kei has tried to make amends to his lover ever since that fateful day, including helping Ranmaru with his painful physical therapy. An outcast from his own family because he is the illegitimate son of his yakuza father's mistress. Kei has a half-brother named Kai who shows up from time to time, usually making things worse for our heroes.

Skill set: Studious, passionate, fashion conscious



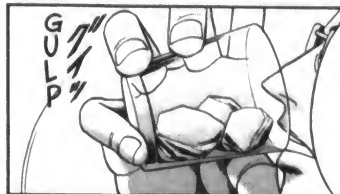
The seller was actually a smaller clan called **Tsuneya**.

Curiously, we didn't find the name **anywhere** in our investigation.



There isn't **any** proof.

I understand.

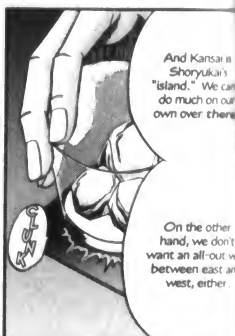


But according to our carriers, there was a Kansai clan involved.

It may be they caught us with a fake name.

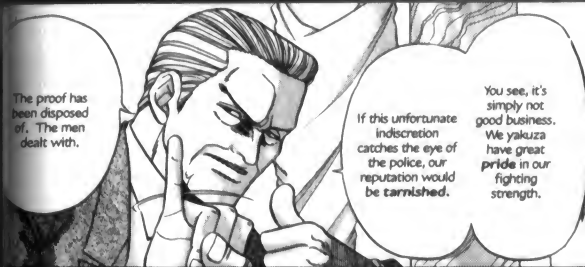


We understand. The Sagano Family will take over the investigation.



And Kansai is Shoryukan "island." We can do much on our own over there.

On the other hand, we don't want an all-out war between east and west, either.



The proof has been disposed of. The men dealt with.

If this unfortunate indiscretion catches the eye of the police, our reputation would be **tarnished**.

You see, it's simply not good business. We yakuza have great **pride** in our fighting strength.



How-ever...



The Ozu Family does not like **loose ends**, and so those men have been retired.



What are you saying!? Where's the proof...!?

He claimed the Sagano Family was behind it.

Kyosuke!



In the process of "dealing with" them, one of them blurted out something strange.



It's not that big of a deal. He's just thinking of expanding his "Island."

He's been unable to settle this mess, and when a war breaks out he'll make it look like *our* faults!!



Not *all* of them. They're using the Sagano name, after all.

Think we can? They've probably all gone straight by now.

Perhaps we should try and find the guys who were "retired" a while back?"



Ah!

Kai needs a bodyguard.



Maybe.

Maybe this is all just a misunderstanding.

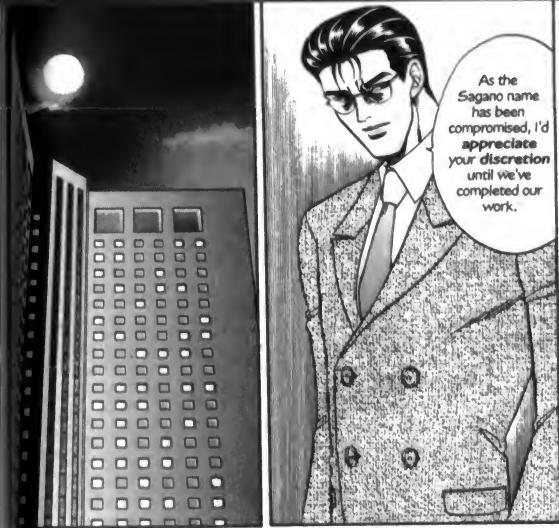


Calm down, Yosuke.

How could you look so damn calm while he throws everything on us!?



FWOOP
Dammit! He pisses me off!!



As the Sagano name has been compromised, I'd appreciate your discretion until we've completed our work.





If anyone's after Kai, he'll get them first.

Besides, we can't track Kai using known yakuza. It'd only make him look bad.

Hey Boss... he's still an assassin, right?



You seem to know all of his quirks.

Hey Boss, are you into this guy or something?



Tashiro's good. And if it comes down to it, he's got the guts to take a hit for Kai.



Otherwise, it'll be trouble all over again.

Just don't get in too deep.

Oh, one other thing: Take off before he gets here. He won't meet with anyone else.



TAP TAP TAP

When? That soon? Okay.

You're in Tokyo?



I don't usually meet with my clients...

...But you've always been special.



Sure, but you won't recognize me. My face has changed since last time.

Yes, but I'm leaving the hotel tomorrow. Can you meet me here?



No chance. This is strictly business.

I'll be right over. Who knows? Maybe we'll get it on.

Heh heh



Hmmm. Tough guy.

I don't care about your face. Just come.



There's no point doing otherwise.

Sagano is a yakuza family, after all.

You get straight to the point, don't you?

That's all I can do for you.

All right, then. Speak your piece, and I'll pass it along to his guardian.

So that's it.

Besides, if you did suspect Kai of some crime, you'd just arrest him.

I'm sure they do plenty to bother the police.

Yes, so you say.

But back to your brother...

I may be related to the Sagano by blood, but I don't want anything to do with them.

It'd be nice if we could.

Am I right?

What did he do this time?

COFFEE
珈
琲



So you're planning a **decoy** operation?



Because we don't **only** want him. We want the entire organization, trade route and all.



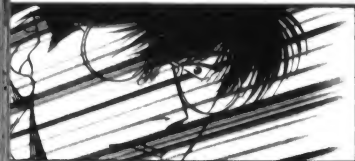
What do you mean?

After all, we understand why you hate the police...

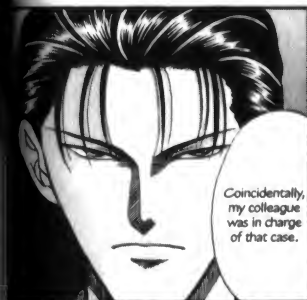




Did you know,
Mr. Enjoyoji,
that the driver
was aiming for
you...



...But
he missed,
and hit
Samejima
instead.



Coincidentally,
my colleague
was in charge
of that case.



I'm referring
to the hic-
and-run
incident that
injured your
friend, of
course.



Your
friend...
Samejima
...

...you two
were close,
weren't you?





Did you see your brother this afternoon?



Can I ask you one more thing?

Thanks for the coffee.

That's all I have to say.



I did.



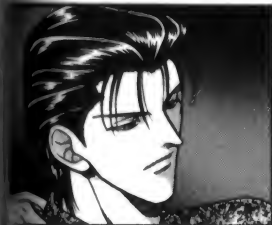
Around one o'clock. We saw a movie in Shinjuku.

Okay?



I just don't trust that the police will be able to bring the guys as far as a courtroom.

It's not that I'm protecting Kai.



Masanori (Masa) Araki



This well muscled soldier in the Sagano yakuza family has been Kai's personal bodyguard for many years. His relationship with Kai works on many levels, including a not too subtle sexual tension that each of them would love to further explore. His deep affection for Kai is mirrored by his crueler side, that of the Sagano family's enforcer, a leg-breaking killer who can be ruthless and calculating.

Skill set: Proficient with edged weapons, all manner of larceny, and general treachery

Kai Sagano



Kei's half-brother enjoyed the advantages of being raised in a yakuza family. Grew up to be relatively fearless, mainly due to the constant presence of his bodyguard, Masa, for whom he has developed rather amorous feelings. Took up kendo as a way to meet Ranmaru, but was unable to strike up a romantic relationship with the kendo champ. Years later, when he was reunited with his half-brother Kai was ecstatic at this new opportunity to get close to Ranmaru. Will he be the wedge that drives Ranmaru and Kei apart?

Skill set: Kendo, cooking, getting into trouble with both sides of the law



Just open your mouth.



You're over-reacting.

Where's the damn thermometer?



Hey! Why are you sleeping here?

I'm home—huh!?



Huh?

You're acting strange.

Maybe you have a fever.

Maybe you should check yourself.



Mm...

You're home early.

You're going to catch a cold like that!



At least it doesn't seem like you've been drinking.

I...I'm sorry. I'm always overreacting, aren't I?

Gotta stay calm.



I'm just worried. Hmm, can't tell.

What's with you?

Look this way! Do you have a fever!?

I was just taking a nap...



"Hi, honey. I'm home."

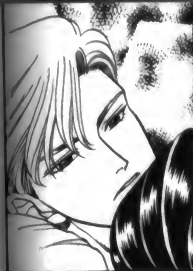


I want to stay here for a while, too.

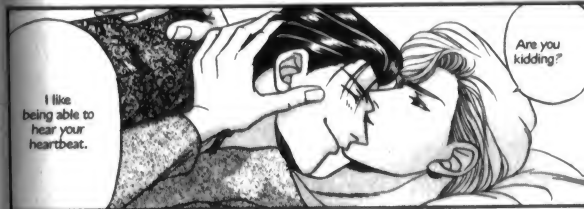


I'll never forget this warmth, this heartbeat.

I have something to protect right here. I won't forget that.



Can I stay here for a while?



I like being able to hear your heartbeat.

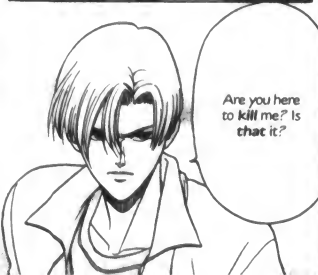
Are you kidding?



Okay...



I want to hear you.





Huff...

That lady is crazy!



Say your prayers, little yakuza...



I've gotta call the police!



Shut up, you lousy crook!

I tried to pay back my debt to that gang...But you raised the price!



Give me that knife or you're going to get hurt.

I won't ask you again.



...Because tonight you will die!



Wha!?

Mind your own business, creep!



Hey you guys! Keep it down out here!